

I am adamantly opposed to relaxing broadcast ownership regulations. The airwaves belong to the public and operate for the public good; the job of the media is to serve us by providing the information necessary to conduct the business of our democracy. Allowing ownership to be consolidated into fewer hands threatens the ability of the public to access a wide variety of viewpoints. Information contrary to the values or profit of the major media owners will be severely limited or absent altogether. It is argued that in this era of media consolidation, we have access to more television channels and radio stations than ever before, and consequently our access to information is not compromised and will not be compromised by further relaxing ownership regulations. The issue is not whether or not we have more stations, but whether or not we have diversity of information. Five stations with a broad range of viewpoints between them provide much more information than 50 stations sharing the same perspective. Further relaxation of media ownership regulations would allow certain viewpoints and beliefs to become the prevailing and annointed perspective, much to the detriment of genuine debate, and while this may well be the objective of those who would benefit monetarily and politically, it would be an intolerable disaster for our democracy and our populace. Do not relax ownership regulations on June 2, 2003.